CLAIMS:

1   1.   A method for creating a preload, wherein an object of said preload is an

2   aggregation of one or more software element objects, comprising the steps of:

3   defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;

4   comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with said

5   one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one or

6   more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an

7   operating system object and an application software object;

8   identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects whose

9   attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload object; and

10   installing software associated with said identified one or more software

11   elements objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular preload

12   object.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2   modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects

3   to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more software

2   element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises

3   one or more of an operating system information and an installation information.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more software

2   element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises

3   a part number.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

2   transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or

3   more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

4   retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software

5   element objects based on said one or more part numbers.

1   6.   A computer program product having a computer readable medium having

2   computer program logic recorded thereon for creating a preload, comprising the

3   programming steps of:

4   defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;

5   comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with said

6   one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one or

7   more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an

8   operating system object and an application software object;

9   identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects whose

10   attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload object; and

11   installing software associated with said identified one or more software

12   elements objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular preload

13   object.

1   7.   The computer program product as recited in claim 6 further comprises the

2   programming step of:

3   modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects

4   to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.

1   8.   The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said one

2   or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said

3   attribute data comprises one or more of an operating system information and an

4   installation information.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said one

2   or more software element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said

3   attribute data comprises a part number.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9 further comprises the

2   programming steps of:

3   transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or

4   more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

5   retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software

6   element objects based on said one or more part numbers.

1   11.   A system, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

4   operable for storing a computer program for creating a preload, wherein an object of

5   said preload is an aggregation of one or more software element objects, wherein the

6   computer program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

7   defining a particular preload object with one or more attributes;

8   comparing attributes of said one or more software element objects with

9   said one or more attributes of said particular preload object, wherein each of said one

10   or more software element objects constitutes one or more of a device driver object, an

11   operating system object and an application software object;

12   identifying one or more of said one or more software element objects

13   whose attributes comprise said one or more attributes of said particular preload

14   object; and

15   installing software associated with said identified one or more

16   software element objects onto a particular preload associated with said particular

17   preload object.

1   12.   The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer program is further

2   operable for performing the following programming step:

3   modifying an attribute of said identified one or more software element objects

4   to match said one or more attributes of said particular preload object.

1   13.   The system as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said one or more software

2   element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises

3   one or more of an operating system information and an installation information.

1   14.   The system as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said one or more software

2   element objects is associated with attribute data, wherein said attribute data comprises

3   a part number.

1   15.   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the computer program is further

2   operable for performing the following programming steps:

3   transmitting one or more part numbers associated with said identified one or

4   more software element objects to a manufacturing system; and

5   retrieving software associated with said identified one or more software

6   element objects based on said one or more part numbers.